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June 23, 2003

OF COUNSEL  
WILLIAM G. CONLY

Honorable James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
State of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 44275  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4275

Re: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Hosston Formation, Reservoir A; and Cotton Valley  
Formation, Reservoir A; HOLLY FIELD, DeSoto  
Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

EL PASO PRODUCTION COMPANY ("Applicant") hereby respectfully applies for a public hearing to consider evidence relative to the issuance of Orders pertaining to the following matters relating to the Hosston Formation, Reservoir A; and to the Cotton Valley Formation, Reservoir A; all in the Holly Field, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana:

1. To authorize Applicant to drill, designate and utilize an additional alternate unit well for HOSS RA SU14 at the location shown on an attached plat.
2. To authorize Applicant to drill, designate and utilize an additional alternate unit well for HOSS RA SU21 at the location shown on an attached plat.
3. To authorize Applicant to drill, designate and utilize an additional alternate unit well for HOSS RA SU33 at the location shown on an attached plat.
4. To authorize Applicant to drill, designate and utilize an additional alternate unit well for CV RA SUJ at the location shown on an attached plat.
5. To authorize Applicant to drill, designate and utilize a substitute unit well for CV RA SUD at the location shown on an attached plat.
6. To authorize Applicant to drill, designate and utilize an alternate unit well for CV RA SUH at the location shown on an attached plat.
7. To approve exceptions to the well location provisions of Office of Conservation Order No. 88-D, effective February 1, 1975 (applicable to the Hosston Formation, Reservoir A), and of Office of Conservation Order No. 88-E, effective August 1, 1975 (applicable to the Cotton Valley Formation, Reservoir A), for any of the above described wells the location of which, as shown on an attached plat, does not comply with the well location provisions of said Orders.
8. To find that each of the proposed substitute and alternate unit wells is necessary to efficiently and economically drain a portion of the Hosston Formation, Reservoir A, and the Cotton Valley Formation, Reservoir A, underlying the unit on which it is proposed to be drilled which cannot be efficiently and economically drained by any existing well on such unit.
9. To permit the Operator of CV RA SUJ and CV RA SUH to produce the allowables assigned to these units from either the unit well, any alternate unit well, or from any combination of such wells, at the option of the Operator.

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10. To consider such other matters as may be appropriate and justified by the evidence presented at the hearing.

The Hosston Formation, Reservoir A, in the Holly Field, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, is defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 88-D, effective February 1, 1975. The Cotton Valley Formation, Reservoir A, in the Holly Field, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, is defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 88-E, effective August 1, 1975.

Pertinent data concerning this application is available for inspection at the offices of Louis Gilbert & Associates, Inc., 3636 North Causeway Boulevard, Suite 204, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-7216. Any person wishing to inspect such data should call Mr. Louis Gilbert at (504) 834-8112 during normal business hours in order to arrange a date and time for such inspection. A copy of any such pertinent data which is not otherwise available from the Office of Conservation can be obtained from Applicant at the expense of the requesting party.

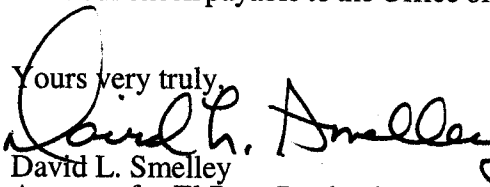
As provided by the Revised Rules of Procedure, the subject matter of this application does not require the issuance of a pre-application notice; therefore, no such notice has been issued.

Pursuant to the aforesaid Rules of Procedure, Applicant has made a reasonable effort to obtain the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties to whom notice of this application is being sent and has attached hereto a list of the names and addresses of such parties. A copy of this letter, and of each of the attached plats, is being sent to the District Manager of the Shreveport District of the Office of Conservation and to the Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties as shown on the attached list.

Applicant will provide for posting of a copy of the Legal Notice of this hearing and of the enclosed plats at a prominent place in the area affected and will cause publication of the Legal Notice in a newspaper published in the general area of Holly Field, all in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, Applicant will mail a copy of the Legal Notice to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties promptly upon receipt of the Legal Notice from the Commissioner.

Finally, enclosed herewith is our check payable to the Office of Conservation covering the application fee.

Yours very truly,

  
David L. Smelley  
Attorney for El Paso Production Company

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DLS:dp

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Broussard (w/encls.)  
Mr. Lew Duff (w/encls.)  
Ms. Shirley Galik (w/encls.)  
Mr. Louis Gilbert (w/encls.)  
Interested Owners, Represented Parties  
and Interested Parties (w/copy of plats only)



